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Vol. II, No. 4

May 1936

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conditions and lack of proper education, and those who can be certified as definitely defective at birth. In this connection it was pointed out—and the fact is not without significance—that higher-grade mental defectives are known to be largely recruited from—a class which is sub-normal in intelligence and which is the chief source of other sub-normalities; and tables were submitted suggesting the existence of common influences linking together the various groups which, if not sub-normal, might be described as on the border-land of sub-normality. Finally, two districts were contrasted to illustrate and further emphasize the intimate interaction between environment and heredity in the production of sub-normal conditions.

If it may be assumed that the picture drawn is as true in some degree of other parts of the country as it is of Merseyside, it must follow that, unless the present differential class fertility can be reversed—by the encouragement of a higher birth-rate among

the eugenically well-endowed and by the discouragement of so high a rate among the eugenically inferior—we are inevitably piling up for ourselves trouble in time to come. We may, with an equanimity for which I believe there is little justification, shut our eyes to the risk we run of increasing the number of those who are definitely sub-normal in mind or body *at birth*; but we can hardly escape the fear that the proportion of young people *brought up* under sub-normal conditions is steadily growing. Something may be done to stay the tide by the provision of improved education, subsidized houses, free maintenance and school meals, and other forms of public assistance in money or kind. It will be difficult, however, notwithstanding all our social services, to prevent a decline in the average level of physique, intelligence and culture of the nation. Its arrest, in so far as it is arrested, is accounted for by our ever-expanding social heritage—each generation begins to build where the last left off.

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it has produced a considerable series of papers on different aspects of eugenics, including the genetics of physical and mental defect in man, vital statistics, and differential fertility. It has also issued several propaganda pamphlets. Larger works on eugenic subjects have been produced by Professors Růžicka, Brožek, Haškovec, Kříženecký. A translation of Major Leonard Darwin's excellent book, *What is Eugenics?* has been issued by the Medical Publishing Association.

The Society also created a pre-marital eugenic bureau in Prague (now attached to the university polyclinic); and similar institutions have been established in two other large towns of the country. In Prague, the register offices draw the attention of candidates for marriage to the importance of a health examination and the possibility of obtaining it in the eugenic bureau.

In the whole, we can claim a growing public interest in eugenic matters. Different corporations of public importance have formed eugenic sections or committees, as for example, the Masaryk Academy of Work, and the Committee of Mental Hygiene, constituted under the auspices of the Ministry of Health. Recently, under the influence of

the German sterilization law, several discussions on this subject have taken place in the meetings of medical as well as juridical societies. It is satisfactory to note that these accept eugenic ideals with understanding; and in the German law, it is only the compulsory clause that is opposed to the general feeling. Eugenic problems are discussed also in the Press, and members of the Society frequently speak at meetings of different organizations, which are called for the propagation of eugenic ideas.

Some distrust of negative eugenics and sterilization was aroused in the general public by the close connection of German eugenics with the unpopular race theories and the idea of the inequality of European races. These misunderstandings are being dissipated by systematic instruction of the public.

At present, Dr. J. Drachovský, professor of the Law Faculty, is President of the Czechoslovak Eugenics Society and its representative in the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations; and among the members of the Committee of the Society there are several professors of the medical faculty. The present address of the Society is: Prague—II Albertov 4.

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Medical Journal, edited by Professor Leonard Finlay. The following is the notice in full:

"We cannot imagine a better example of the value of eugenics in the prevention of disease than that of deaf-mutism, which is discussed by Dr. James Kerr Love on p. 92 of the present issue [that of March 1936]. Indeed, as Dr. Love points out, selection of parentage is our only means of preventing one of the greatest calamities that can befall an individual. There are, of course, one or two other conditions, e.g. hæmophilia and muscular dystrophy, in which the same precautions are equally applicable, and we are convinced that the *Eugenics Society* would be well advised, in their endeavours to educate the public, to concentrate their attention on such instances where their suggested measures would meet with indisputable success rather than to dissipate their energies

over a wide field of more or less problematical questions. In this latter way failure of their prophesies is bound to result and harm to, and distrust in, the value of eugenics can only follow. This word of warning is surely called for in view of the *Society's* latest announcement, even although it is reputed to have the support of certain eminent physicians, that they are now prepared to give advice regarding the contracting of happy marriages."

I should be very grateful to readers of the *REVIEW* for criticisms and suggestions on our Schedule. Members of the *Society* are invited to send for the Schedule and to try filling it in as they would if they were about to get married. I should be much interested to know if, as a result of doing this, they come to the conclusion that the Schedule is too elaborate or needs modification in any other respect.

CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY

An International Psychological Quarterly

Edited by C. E. SPEARMAN

Contents of June 1936 issue

SOME SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY. By KURT LEWIN (*State University of Iowa*).

SOME RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE THEORY OF PSYCHOMETRY. By WILLIAM STEPHENSON (*University College, London*).

WAR AND PACIFISM: SOME INDIVIDUAL (UNCONSCIOUS) FACTORS. By EDWARD GLOVER (*London*).

DYNAMICS OF THE GESTALT PSYCHOLOGY, Part II. By WILLIAM McDougall (*Duke University*).

RECENT RESEARCH ON UNITARY MENTAL TRAITS. By KARL J. HOLZINGER (*University of Chicago*).

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HILDA POCKOCK.

Eugenics and the Derby

FROM a review by Dean Inge of *We Europeans* (*Evening Standard*, June 18th) :

"It is interesting to contrast the influence of careful pedigree-study on the betting for the Derby with our reckless indifference to heredity in human beings. So far from putting eugenics aside till a more convenient season, I am convinced that there is no time

to lose. Counter-selection is going on rapidly and unchecked."

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Society* during the past quarter.

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GLIMPSES OF A NYIKA TRIBE (WADURUMA). J. B. GRIFFITHS.

SOKAPANA: A MELANESIAN SECRET SOCIETY (with Plates XXII-XXIV). F. L. S. BELL, M.A.

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE RWALA BEDOUIN (with Plates XXVII-XXIX.)

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A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL SCIENCE. Annual Subscription, £1; monthly numbers, 2s. net.

About 50 per cent. of all the children covered by the Viennese survey are the grandchildren of paupers. If we confine ourselves to this group with tainted heredity, we get a much higher percentage of defect than in the remaining half, e.g. in the case of psychic inferiority 70 against 36 per cent.! The existence of such a comparatively large body of hereditary "will-cripples" must be of great interest and importance both to the eugenicist and to the social reformer.

T.

Teschitz, Karl. *Religion, Kirche, Religionsstreit in Deutschland.* Copenhagen, 1935. Sexpol-Verlag. Pp. 112. Price K. 3.50.

THIS little book has no direct bearing upon the problems of eugenics. Nevertheless I wish to commend it to readers of the REVIEW as a bold and—in my opinion—successful attempt to apply the principles of historic materialism together with those of modern psychology and psycho-analysis to the study of a great and important social pheno-

menon—namely religion and the Church. Other problems might be attacked by the same combination of methods.

I recognize that the ideas of Karl Teschitz may not appeal to many people not accustomed to his way of seeing and saying things, but it would be difficult to resist the conclusion that his book is not "propaganda literature," but a good piece of scientific work.

T.

Whitney, Leon F. *The Case for Sterilisation.*

The International Library of Sexology and Psychology. London, 1935. John Lane, The Bodley Head. Pp. 215. Price 8s. 6d.

THE author is Director of the American Eugenics Society and gives a popular and comprehensive account of his subject; but the editor (Mr. Norman Haire) has found it necessary to add a large number of explanatory footnotes. Eugenists will find much of interest in the book, but its appeal to opponents is likely to be less than might have been hoped.

K. B. AIKMAN.

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It is an amazing record. *The Possibilities of Modern Marriage*, by H. M. Grant, should appeal particularly to the general reader, being full of optimism for "the future of the institution" if human beings will take trouble to understand their sex life. *Periodic Fertility and Sterility in Women*, by Felix Tietze, proves conclusively that, although some periods are more fertile than others, there is no safe period. *Marriage in Hindu India*, by V. R. Kharolker, is written on broad, popular lines. *Marriage and Widowhood in India*, by G. S. Ghurze: *Notes on Abortion and Birth Control*, by J. J. Spengler, and *The Birth Control Movement in China*, by Dr. Amos Wong, are of a more scientific and statistical nature. Enid Charles's *Twilight of Parenthood* is given a long critical review in an article by Professor Norman E. Himes. *Marriage Hygiene* is a well-balanced periodical and one looks forward to the next number with keen anticipation.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Revue de l'Institut de Sociologie

1935. Parts 2, 3 and 4.—The issue for April-June

contains an article on the mode of life and familial institutions in Corsica by M. Renée Hubert and Madame Sengette Hubert. The authors relate the peculiar features of Corsican society to the geographical, ethnological and historical conditions and give a detailed account of the Corsican family. The point most interesting to eugenicists is the high birth-rate—21.8 per 1,000—which the authors attribute to the patriarchal form of the family. The July-September number is devoted to Quetelet.

DIANA SPEARMAN.

Sociological Review

January 1936. Vol. XXVIII, No. 1.—Professor Mannheim discusses Lombroso's contribution to criminology. While admitting that the idea of "the natural delinquent" in Lombroso's sense is dead, he points out the similarity between Lombroso's basic ideas and some modern schools, especially the crimino-biological school which grew mainly out of the work of Kretschmer on constitutional types. Large's work on twins is also closely connected with Lombroso's ideas.

DIANA SPEARMAN.

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assist in gaining a fundamental end—in this case eugenic—any incidental temporary discomfort to a section of humanity is of secondary importance, and the ruse suggested by Mr. Brewer of presenting the problem hind part first under a thin veil is hardly a procedure I would adopt towards the REVIEW of a scientific society for which I have always had very great and sincere esteem. *Thirdly*, Mr. Brewer refers to my letter as containing a "pretence of eugenic policy" and not being in accordance with "objective biological science." Then it is precisely here that we require some further finding and leading from the *Society's* experts, who have the accumulated information to hand. The writer is only an interested amateur of long date.

Both Mr. Brewer and his American confrère, Mr. Himes, seem rather to have gone off at the deep end into the Jewish socio-political question, which I assume can hardly be debated in the columns of the EUGENICS REVIEW, although "eugenics falls within the province of the Social Sciences," as Mr. Julian S. Huxley mentioned in his address on "Eugenics and Society" at the Galton dinner this year.

That the Jewish race have made a considerable contribution to art and science is doubtless the case, but, whatever its value may have been to the Gentile races, it has never outweighed the disadvantages to the latter of the presence of Jews in their midst. It may be noted that England's great time of blossoming, the Elizabethan age, took place in the period after the Jews were driven out of England by Edward I and before Cromwell let them in again.

I will however not attempt to prolong this letter except to remind Mr. Brewer that Paris is only three hours' journey from London to-day, and it is quite possible to live in Paris and still realize the current state of mind of "every decent Englishman."

Possibly Mr. Brewer, whether a frequent continental traveller or not, does not realize that these masses of "decent" Englishmen are coming to be regarded more and more throughout continental countries (to avoid a "thinly veiled" expression) as "fantastic incomprehensible fools" in regard to their perspicacity outside the ken of their own jobs.

NORMAN A. THOMPSON.

Paris.

The Eugenics Review

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—Protracted correspondence in the form of replies and counter-replies is not encouraged by the editors of scientific journals, but I shall be grateful if you will allow me to make one remark in answer to Mr. Yates's reply to my comments on his review of a recent part of *Biometrika*. I was surprised, indeed, to see that he endeavoured to turn the tables by interpreting my letter as an expression of the opinion that the EUGENICS REVIEW is an unsuitable place for notices of anthropological literature. Nothing could have been further from my purpose in writing it. I have myself contributed anthropological papers to a journal devoted to eugenics, and it was the feeling that the two sciences are cognate, and that there ought to be closer relations between them than those existing at present, which moved me to write. But there must be mutual understanding of the aims of each line of inquiry if there is to be any helpful co-operation, and lack of such understanding was clearly evidenced by the review in question, which, while giving sweeping criticisms of methods used, showed no appreciation of the aims of the researches, or of the difficulties encountered in dealing with them.

G. M. MORANT.

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